

Remarks

The Examiner has restricted the invention into the following Groups:

- Group I: Claims 1-11 and 22-25, drawn to a composite surgical implant;
- Group II: Claims 12-13, drawn to a method of making a composite surgical implant; and
- Group III: Claims 14-21, drawn to methods of using a composite surgical implant.

In response to the Examiner's restriction requirement, but without conceding the propriety thereof, Applicant elects Group I with traverse. Applicant submits that there is no undue burden on the Examiner to search the remaining claims in this application, particularly since they were searched in the application from which this RCE was filed. "If the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to independent or distinct inventions." *See* MPEP 803 (emphasis added). Accordingly, Applicant submits that Groups I-III should be examined together, even if the Examiner maintains the position that they are distinct inventions.

If there remain any additional issues to be addressed, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at 404.815.6147.

Respectfully submitted,

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